



White River

National Forest

It's all yours.



Forest Facts | 2014

Forest Size: 2,275,956 acres
640,000 roadless acres
Permanent Employees: 128
Seasonal Employees: 117
Annual Budget: 20,513,600
Outfitters & Guides: 160
Grazing Allotments: 86
Recreation Visitors: 12.3 million annually

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2014 Annual Report

The White River National Forest embodies the spirit of multiple use management. It is the most visited National Forest in the nation with over 12 million visitors per year. In addition to world-class recreation and abundant wildlife, the White River hosts activities such as grazing, logging, mining, and oil and gas development—all crucial to the economies of Western Colorado. We take pride in being leaders in sustainability and innovative landscape restoration. We strive towards excellence in our relationships with our communities and our staff. The White River National Forest is all yours to discover, enjoy and care for.

The White River Vision

We are a 21st century organization leading the nation in innovative landscape conservation, connecting citizens to the land through world-class recreation, restoring and enhancing resilient ecosystems, and contributing to sustainable communities. We tell our story and take care of each other as we continue our legacy of meeting incredible challenges with passion, creativity, and collaboration.



Message from the Forest Supervisor



Photo Courtesy of Corey Myers

As the Forest Supervisor of the most visited Forest in the Nation, it is my pleasure to present the 2014 accomplishment report. This report reflects the hard work of a dedicated and caring staff who meets incredible challenges with passion, creativity, and collaboration. Equally dedicated volunteers made this year's work possible with cash and in-kind contributions totaling over \$ 3.2 million. My heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who made this work possible!

Our world-class recreation is enjoyed by over 12 million visitors each year, over seven million of which play on the slopes of our 11 permitted ski resorts. To complement the winter recreation activity, this year we also conducted analysis for new summer recreation activities on two of these ski areas.

2014 was a year for commemoration as we celebrated and acknowledged the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act at the Maroon Bells Birthday Bash and the Cradle of Wilderness Commemoration at Trappers Lake. Both of these successful events were made possible through our outstanding partnerships and volunteers across the Forest.

The significant challenges we faced in 2013 are still with us, including declining budgets and more demands than ever on our staff and the land we manage. 2015 will continue to present even more challenges. We hope this report is reflective of our continued commitment to meet those challenges with passion, creativity and innovative partnerships. The White River National Forest is all yours to discover, explore and care for.

For more information visit us at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver> or visit our partners at the National Forest Foundation at www.itsallyours.us to learn how you can connect to and care for the places you love to play.

Scott Fitzwilliams
Forest Supervisor



Financial Report

Since 2010, the White River National Forest's budget decreased 22% (\$5.5million)

- The White River National Forest (WRNF) returned \$ 20,104,162 back to the Treasury from revenues and collections in 2014
- Nearly 90% of the annual WRNF budget is allocated to fixed and constant costs such as salaries, leases, and utilities
- Total Budget : \$ 20,513,600

2014 Revenues & Collections

Recreation Special Use Permits	\$18,563,891
Oil and Gas Revenue	\$ 38,409
Utilities Special Use Permits	\$ 240,156
Timber Sales	\$111,875
Cooperative Work Agreements	\$ 117,713
Cost Recovery	\$ 115,979
Lands/Lands Special Use Permits	\$ 622,996
Quarters	\$158,288
Grazing Permits	\$107,522
Road Maintenance Agreements	None
Miscellaneous	\$5,375
Minerals - Rock Collecting	\$4,935
Donations	\$128,898
TOTAL	\$20,104,162

2014 Expenditures

Bark Beetle Mitigation	\$1,097,556
Recreation Management (includes recreation fees collected)	\$3,459,347
General Administration	\$2,532,275
Road & Trail Maintenance & Con-	\$1,409,528
Mineral & Mining Management	\$1,349,516
Fire Preparedness	\$1,365,655
Fire Suppression	\$71,015
Timber & Vegetation Management	\$3,205,376
Fleet/Vehicles/Fuel/Maintenance	\$1,068,516
Facilities Maintenance & Construction	\$670,656
Lands & Realty	\$514,940
Wildlife & Botany Management	\$775,981
Range Administration	\$529,575
Planning, Inventory, and Monitoring	\$381,038
Fuel Reduction	\$1,500,176
Cost Recovery	\$44,306
TOTAL	\$19,975,456

Secure Rural Schools Funding (25% Distribution to Counties)

Pitkin County	\$496,548
Garfield County	\$382,572
Rio Blanco County	\$165,450
Summit County	\$598,652
Mesa County	\$72,108
Eagle County	\$598,728



Recreation



- **Aspen-Sopris Ranger District | Ashcroft Adventure Lodge:** Permitting of Ashcroft Ski Touring's new 2,000 square ft. Adventure Lodge is a one-stop destination for visitor information, trail/touring passes, rental equipment, restrooms, and sleigh rides. The installation of a modern, fully accessible building provides better service to the public with convenient and accessible access to everything required for high quality recreation experiences in the Castle Creek Valley.
- **Blanco & Rifle Ranger Districts:** Cleared over 2,300 trees blocking Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) routes and made over 5,000 visitor contacts. The OHV crew improved many miles of OHV trails and has been a key player in successful implementation of the Forest Travel Management Plan. The OHV crew is funded by the State of Colorado OHV Trails Program through the annual registration of OHV's.
- **Dillon Ranger District:** Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado led over 100 volunteers in a 2-day trail construction project on the Turk's Trail near the Town of Breckenridge. A bridge was installed and about 3/4 of a new trail was built.
- **Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District Motor Vehicle Use Map:** The district signed a decision that allowed 143 miles of road to be reopened to motorized use which brought a much better balance to the Travel Management Plan across the district. Many of the roadbeds were more accommodating to the motorized user than a full-sized vehicle, so signing this decision ultimately led to less road damage and an increase in the opportunity for the public to recreate in the manner that they desire.

The public goes to play on the White River National Forest with an estimate of over 12.3 million annual visits. Its unique location along the I-70 corridor and close proximity to the Denver area allows for easy access to a wide range of recreation activities. Location and heavy use present management challenges like user conflicts, visitor needs, impacts to resources, and the evolution of outdoor sport. The opportunities are wide-ranging from skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, backpacking, hiking, camping, boating, biking, hunting, and more. The White River provides more than 2,500 miles of trails, 1,900 miles of Forest Service system roads, 66 campgrounds, 12 ski areas, and eight world-class Wilderness areas.

Highlights | 2014

370 Miles of trails managed to Forest Service standards

277 Recreation special use permits administered

92 Seasonal events permitted

Recreation Event Highlight: For the past four years, the Forest has been involved in activities and permitting related to the USA Pro Challenge and bike race. Rangers and Forest staff patrolled various passes and race viewing areas to educate visitors about the Forest, offer advice on where to camp, and provide an enthusiastic positive experience.



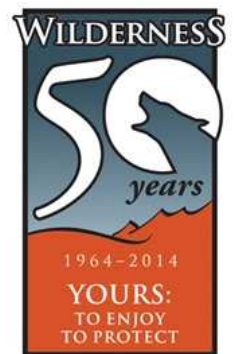
Wilderness Special Events

50th Anniversary of Wilderness and the Maroon Bells Birthday Bash: The Forest and a group of dedicated partners came together to commemorate 50 years of the Maroon Bells along with the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Partners included: Wilderness Work Shop, Aspen Center For Environmental Studies, City of Aspen, Pitkin County and more!

Trappers Lake & the Cradle of Wilderness: The Blanco Ranger District celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Wilderness at Trappers Lake and partnered with the community and other Forest Service units to live broadcast a panel discussion centered on the contributions of Arthur Carhart to the wilderness movement.

What is Wilderness?

In 1964, our nation's leaders formally acknowledged the immediate and lasting benefits of wild places to the human spirit and fabric of our nation. That year, in a nearly unanimous vote, Congress enacted landmark legislation that permanently protected some of the most natural and undisturbed places in America. The Wilderness Act established the National Wilderness Preservation System " ... to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness."



"If we are to have broad-thinking men and women of high mentality, of good physique and with a true perspective on life, we must allow our populace a communion with nature in areas of more or less wilderness condition."
Arthur Carhart, former U.S. Forest Service official circa 1950



Restoration | Resiliency



Photo courtesy of Steven DeWitt & The National Forest Foundation

Restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. Ecological restoration focuses on re-establishing the composition, structure, pattern, and ecological processes necessary to facilitate ecosystem sustainability, resilience, and health under current and future conditions. A resilient forest is a forest achieved through restoration and forest management and can survive changes such as climate change, wildfire, and drought.

There are many types of restoration work from vegetation and fuels treatments, to watershed restoration, to long term stewardship contracts and tree planting.

Fuels Reduction | 2014

- **1,400** acres treated with prescribed fire for habitat improvement and hazardous fuels reduction
- **2,332** acres of mechanical treatments to reduce hazardous fuels and improve forest health were conducted
- **25** acres piled for burning (approximate)
- **3,150** cords of fuelwood sold
- **32,581** CCF* volume of Forest products sold
- **2,947** Christmas trees sold

Vegetation Management | 2014

- Placed under contract for removal 1,232 acres of dead and dying trees in beetle-affected areas
- Sold 442.6 acres viable timber which equates a volume of approximately 9,288 CCF
- Produced 58,008 green tons of biomass
- Certified 1,136 acres of silviculturally treated areas reforested

*1 CCF is equivalent to 100 cubic feet of wood



Restoration | Forest Management

Tree Planting | 2014

- **161** acres of previously logged areas
- **36** acres and 13,000 Douglas-fir and Ponderosa Pine seedlings on the Frisco Peninsula
- **21** acres at Keystone and Breckenridge Ski Resorts
- **1,200** acres in Prospector, Peak One, Pine Cove, and Windy Point Campgrounds

Dillon Ranger District: Fuels reduction and reforestation is a critical management activity for the Dillon Ranger District following the mountain pine beetle epidemic.

Mountain Pine Beetle | 2014

During the last decade, the mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic affected some 386,000 acres of the White River National Forest. Forest managers reduce and manage hazardous fuels, remove hazardous trees, and monitor reforestation in areas affected by beetle infestations. Managers focus on restoration projects to improve the health, resiliency, and safety of the Forest. Forest health and fuels treatments are focused in what is called the "Wildland Urban Interface" (WUI) along roads and trails, in developed recreation areas, municipal watersheds, near infrastructure such as utility corridors, as well as general forest areas.

This management approach is necessary for the health of the Forest and the protection of surrounding communities. Within a 10-20 year period, most of the dead lodgepole pines will deteriorate and fall to the ground. The resulting condition would be heavy fuels accumulations that could support large-scale wildfires characterized by high severity/high intensity fire behavior. Extreme fire behavior and the consequent high fire severity would threaten private property, community infrastructure, fire fighter safety, and forest resources such as recreation and watersheds.

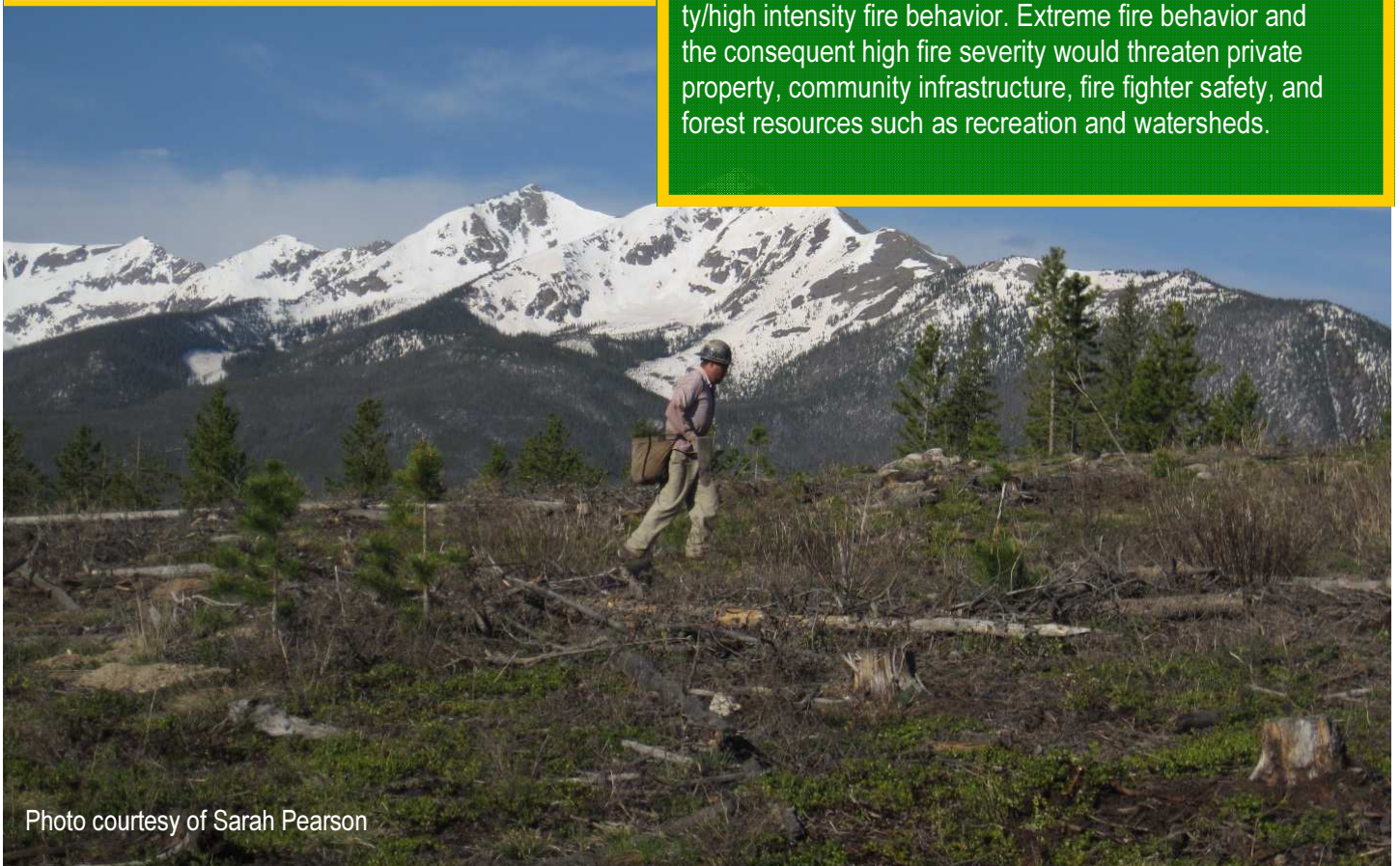


Photo courtesy of Sarah Pearson



Restoration | Watersheds



Watersheds | 2014

Aspen-Sopris Ranger District & Crooked Creek Restoration Project: the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District initiated and completed the restoration of 1,700 feet of stream and six acres of valley bottom (ponds). In 2014, approximately half of the stream and valley bottoms were restored and 7,000 cubic yards of material was removed. Two of the five ponds were breached, drained, and restored to wetland. This all was accomplished within six weeks by one excavator, one back hoe and one dump truck continuously moving earth.

Dillon Ranger District: Ten Mile Creek Restoration: The Tenmile Creek restoration project was overseen by the Blue River Watershed Group (BRWG) and the US Forest Service. The project included stream and floodplain restoration, soil amendment, wetlands creation, and revegetation in a heavily impacted reach of Tenmile Creek near the Copper Mountain ski area. Also:

- approximately 1,600 linear feet of stream channel was restored;
- five new meander bends created; and
- a total of 3.15 acres of riparian, wetland, and floodplain habitat was restored.

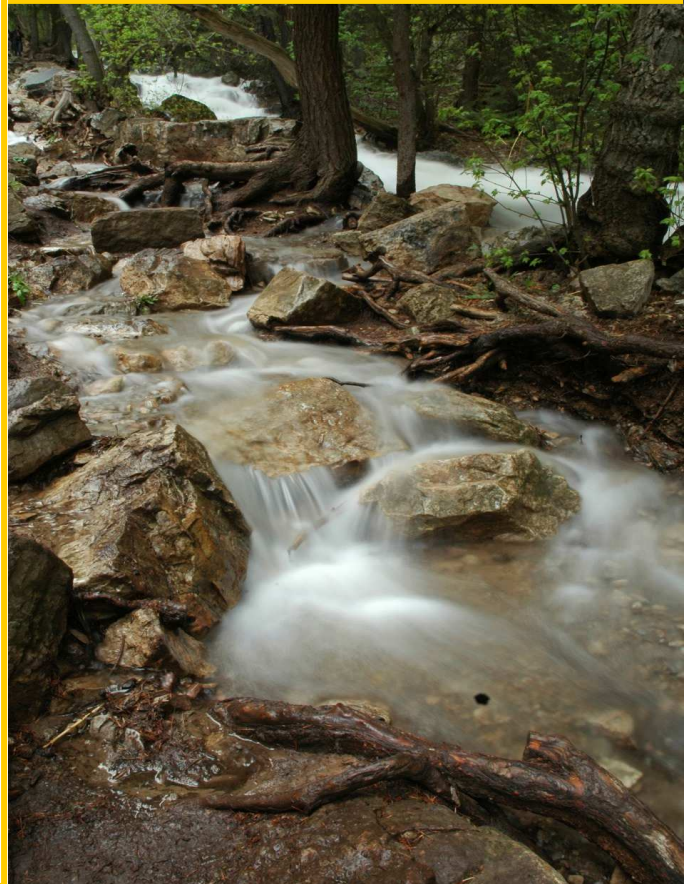
Swan River Restoration: With partners and mechanisms like the Ski Conservation Fund, the district was able to accomplish watershed restoration in the Middle Fork of the Swan River.

Wild & Scenic Manager of the Year: Kay Hopkins was awarded the National Wild & Scenic River Program Manager of the year.

Watersheds | Highlights

21.8 miles of inland stream enhanced

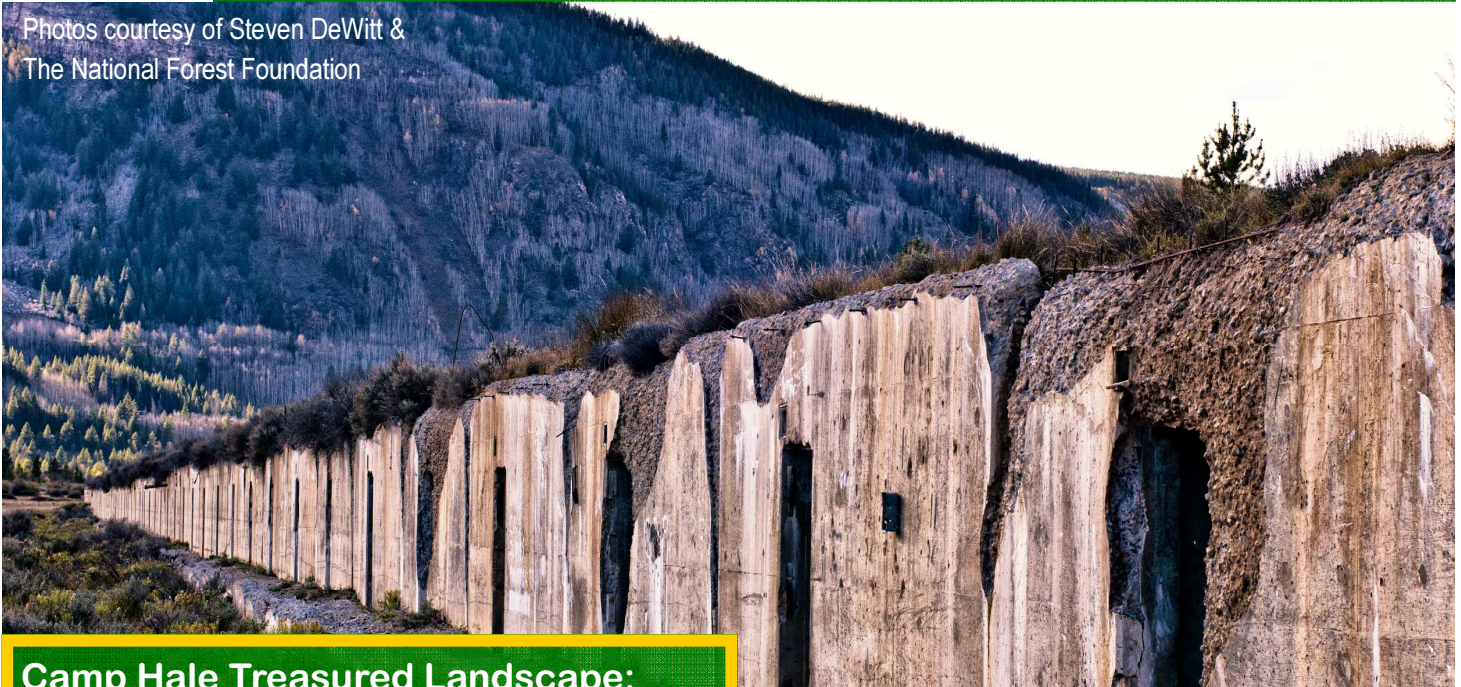
1,084 acres of lake habitat restored





Restoration | Project Highlight

Photos courtesy of Steven DeWitt &
The National Forest Foundation



Camp Hale Treasured Landscape:

In 2014, the Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District received a project proposal from a highly successful collaborative group of over 40 stakeholders to develop a shared vision for the restoration and future management of the iconic Camp Hale area. The proposal was the product of years worth of collaborative work to try and balance the significant restoration needs of the area while maintaining the history and character of the site and continuing to support the area's large and varied recreation use. We're excited to take this proposal and begin the National Environmental Policy (NEPA) process in the coming year.

Camp Hale | Background

In 1942, the Eagle River headwaters and the surrounding 240,000 acres became a winter and mountain warfare World War II training camp, housing up to 17,000 troops. At an elevation of 9,200 feet, the military established Camp Hale because the natural setting included a large, flat wetlands meadow, surrounded by steep slopes suitable for training in skiing, rock climbing, and winter survival skills. After World War II, Camp Hale was used by the C.I.A. to secretly train Tibetan soldiers to enter China over high mountain passes during the Cold War. The camp was deactivated in 1964 and returned to the U.S. Forest Service for management.

When the Army established Camp Hale, they drained the large wetlands meadow surrounding the East and South Forks of the Eagle River; installed a sewage system; imported 2,000,000 cubic yards of fill; and channeled the meandering East and South Forks of the Eagle River headwaters into a linear three-mile ditch system that remains today.

To address the area's significant restoration needs, the National Forest Foundation led a multi-year, community-based planning effort that created a collaborative plan for restoring the Eagle River's natural stream meanders and reestablishing a floodplain that supports functioning riparian and wetland ecosystems. In total, the plan proposes to restore approximately 270 acres of wetlands and five miles of stream channel.





Wildlife



Wildlife | Highlights

11,682 acres of terrestrial habitat restored

21.8 miles of inland stream enhanced

1,084 acres of lake habitat restored

129,890 acres of terrestrial habitat inventoried and monitored

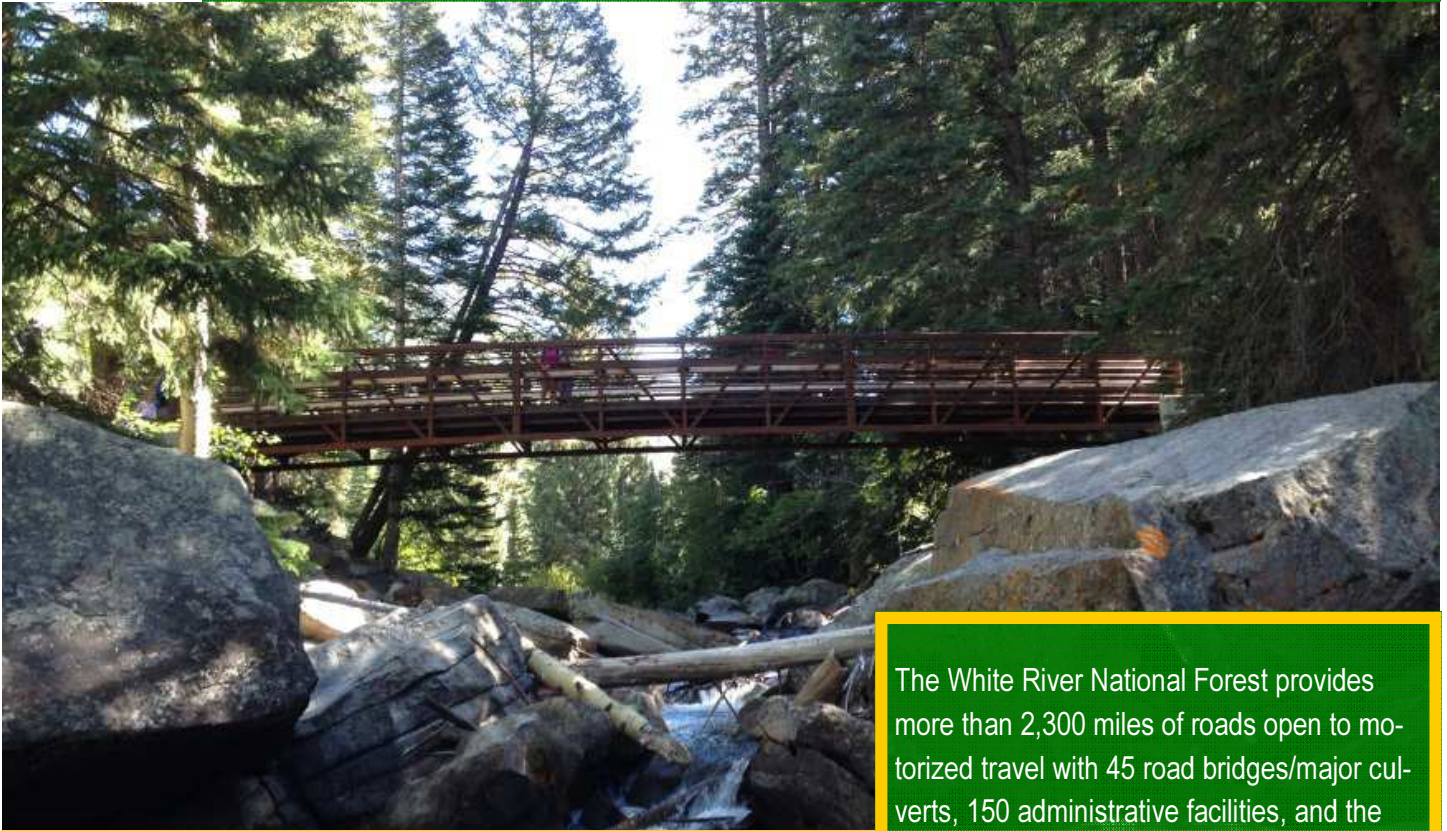
Wildlife | 2014

Rifle Ranger District: The 1,030 acre Rifle Ranger District prescribed burn on the Battlements in May was a success. The remote location required a helicopter for ignition. This project is part of a landscape scale project and was paid for by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife using Big Game Auction funds. The primary purpose of this project was to benefit big game habitat while improving Bighorn Sheep corridors and re-introducing fire back into a previously fire-excluded ecosystem. An agreement with a local landowner helped provide access to the project area and a heli-base.





Engineering



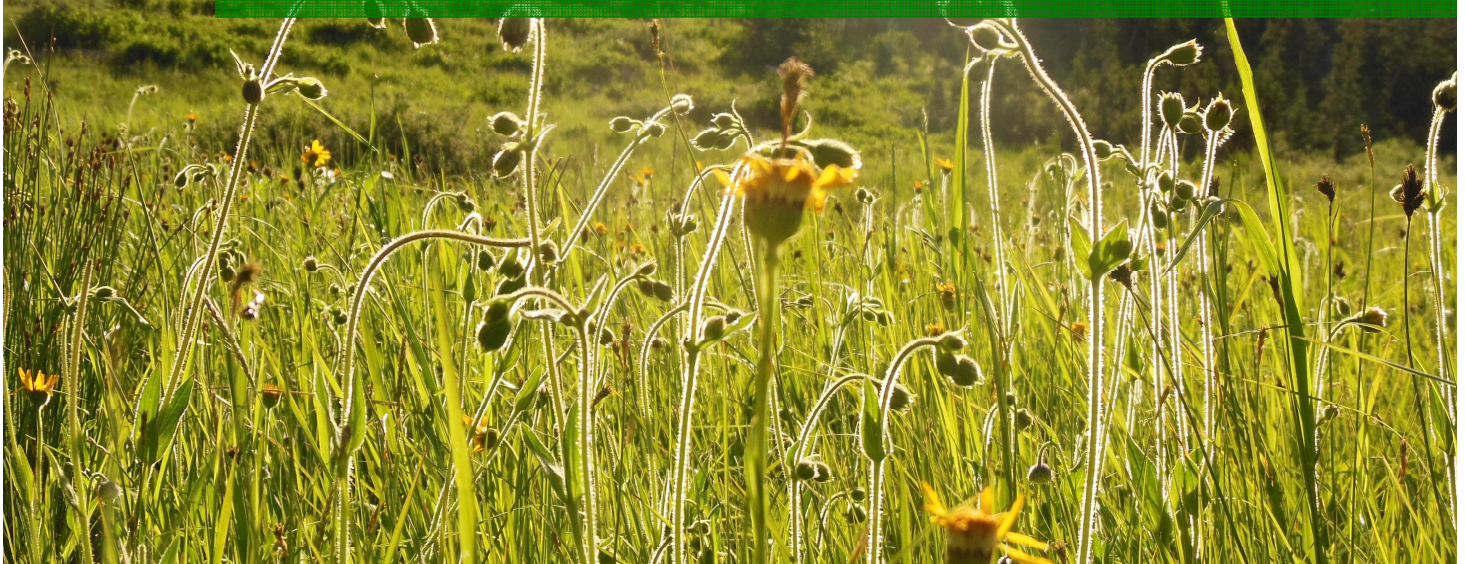
The White River National Forest provides more than 2,300 miles of roads open to motorized travel with 45 road bridges/major culverts, 150 administrative facilities, and the infrastructure in over 30 campgrounds throughout the Forest. Engineering continues to support the needs of the Forest by providing management and technical expertise to ensure a quality and safe recreation experience. Engineering strives for sustainable solutions on our current and future infrastructure demands.

Engineering | 2014

- Maintained 480 miles of roads
- Placed 2,000 tons of surface aggregate on roads
- Inspected 20 of the Forest's 42 bridges and 18 trail bridges. Removed 4 deteriorated trail bridges and 1 major road bridge. Installed 1 trail bridge.
- Safety closures of 2 unsafe bridges
- Inspected 5 active mining operations
- Closed 16 open mine features for safety reasons
- Demolished, removed, and disposed of 14 abandoned mine land structures in Summit, Eagle, and Gunnison Counties
- Finished the Hope Mine removal action and reclaimed 10 acres on the Butterfly/Burrell Mine reclamation project under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) program
- Completed 1 emergency relief for federally owned roads projects



Facilities | Redevelopment



WRNF Conveyance and Redevelopment Program

The White River National Forest is implementing an innovative redevelopment program to provide better customer service to the American taxpayer by reducing administrative structures, decreasing energy, lease, and maintenance costs, and improving facility conditions. This program is being accomplished while using nearly no appropriated dollars. This program utilizes the authority granted by the Forest Service Facilities Realignment and Enhancement Act of 2005 (FSFRE) to convey administrative parcels and keep the revenue on the Forest to maintain/construct/purchase other facilities.

The program consists of selling approximately 150 acres of under-utilized FS administrative lands and utilizing the revenue to 'right size' remaining administrative compounds with highly efficient facilities that meet the Agency's space standards. This program would decrease the footprint of federally-maintained administrative facilities across the Forest by approximately 15,000 square feet, while reducing the number of individual buildings by approximately 50.

Objectives: Administrative areas, including buildings and outside storage areas, were reduced along with the size of some sites. The Forest accomplished a decrease in:

- Land owned and under utilized by approx. 150 acres
- Number of facilities by approximately 50 (consolidation of some areas is included in this figure)
- Administrative building footprint by 15,000 square feet as well as administrative sites by 8.

2014 Conveyance Projects Completed:

- 5 lots in Aspen sold
- 2 houses in Rifle sold
- 4.59 acres of outside storage sold
- Renovation of Rifle District Ranger Office with state-of-the-art energy efficiency



Partnerships | Volunteers



Partnerships | 2014

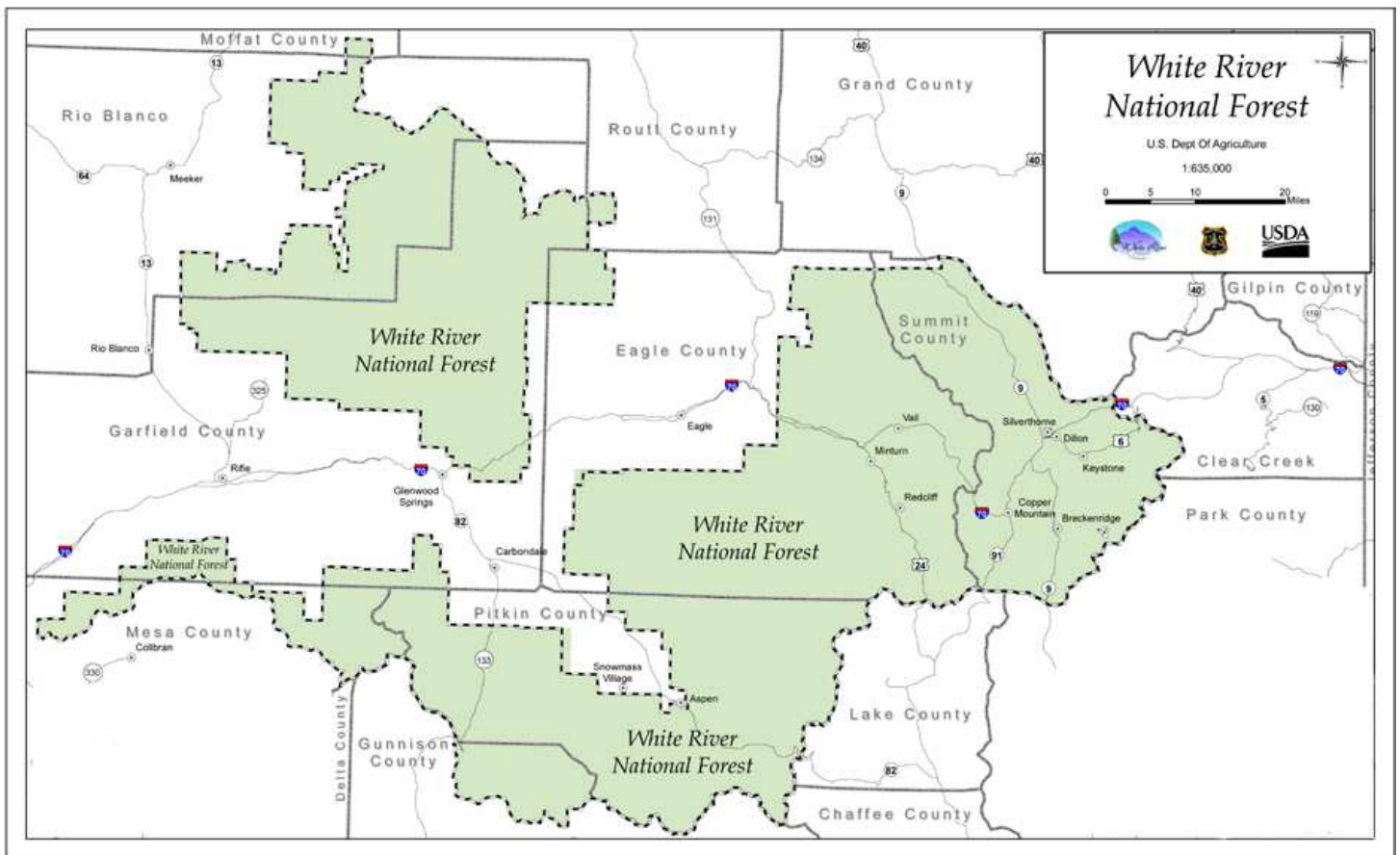
Eagle-Holy Cross and Dillon Ranger Districts:

Volunteers with Friends of Eagle's Nest Wilderness and a contract mule packer sprayed invasive weeds with herbicide in the Wilderness, maintained trails, and made visitor contacts.

Dillon Ranger District: Friends of Dillon Ranger District received funding for coordinating 54 projects involving 6,735 volunteer hours. Accomplishments include 4.5 miles of trail maintenance, 1.2 miles of new trail construction, construction of one trail bridge, collection of 26 bags of litter, and planting of 71 trees.

Rifle Ranger District: In partnership with Garfield County, the District hosted two Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC) crews for the summer. The RMYC spent much of the summer working on National Forest System lands throughout Garfield County. Accomplishments include fence removal and construction, trail maintenance, campsite inspections, building accessible picnic sites, and tree planting.

A great deal of important, valuable work on the White River National Forest would not be accomplished without the efforts of our partners. These partnerships help provide needed funding, salary/labor, supplies and materials, or in some cases a combination of all these services. Examples of new and ongoing partnership work include but are not limited to: reclamation and mitigation of safety hazards related to abandoned mines; range restoration, trails work, timber work, education and outreach; wildlife, watersheds, cooperative pollution abatement, job training and development programs; improving, maintaining and protecting ecosystem conditions through collaborative administration and/or implementation of projects.



White River National Forest

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Carbondale Office 970-963-2266

Blanco Ranger District

District Ranger, Ken Coffin
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Dillon Ranger District

District Ranger, Bill Jackson
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Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District

District Ranger, David Neely
Eagle Office 970-328-6388
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